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Kinmount Christmas

Kids meet Santa, families take horse-drawn wagon rides; it's holiday season

3



On the button

Realtors and their families hit the ice to raise money for food bank

17



Off the blocks

Red Hawks junior players Emma Cox, left, and Alyssa Denyer jump to block an LCVI Spartans spike at the on Tuesday, Dec. 3 in an exhibition tournament. Darren Lum Staff

Sparks fly over energy plan

Chad Ingram
 Staff reporter

Sparks are flying over a new long-term energy plan unveiled by the provincial government last week. Presented by Energy Minister Bob Chiarelli on Dec. 2, the Liberals are touting the plan as a modern strategy that embraces newer, cleaner sources of energy and relies on community involvement.

"The 2013 long-term energy plan balances five principles that will guide future decisions; cost-effectiveness, reliability, clean energy, community engagement and an emphasis on conservation and demand management before building new generation," a release from the energy ministry reads.

However, the Opposition PCs say the plan is anything but cost-effective for Ontarians, who will continue to see their electricity bills rise.

"Figures show that the average power bill may rise by up to 41 per cent than current costs over the next decade and beyond," a press release from the party reads. "According to the plan, on average, Ontarians will pay \$168 more next year for their electricity, rising to roughly \$384 more by 2017."

"If this does not prove how out of touch the government is with the Ontario family, then I don't know what will," Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock MPP Laurie Scott said in a Dec. 2 press release. "Premier Wynne just does not get how difficult it is for many families to live

see MPP page 2

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MPP Laurie Scott troubled by government's plan

from page 1

right now. This report is only going to make things more difficult for many Ontarians."

While rates will continue to rise, the Liberals contend they are actually mitigating cost increases and that the new plan will cost Ontario households \$520 less during the next five years than the 2010 plan had called for.

This equates to \$3,800 less per household up to 2030, the government contends, stressing the new plan was put together using significant public input.

"This plan reflects what we heard from thousands of people and dozens of organizations right across the province," Chiarelli said in a release. "Our vision for Ontario is to create a clean, affordable and reliable energy system that focuses on conservation and addresses regional needs."

Nuclear power accounts for the majority of the province's electricity.

Currently, 56 per cent of Ontario's electricity comes from nuclear plants; 22 per cent from hydro plants; 10 per cent from gas; five per cent from conservation; three per cent from wind; two per cent from coal; and one per cent each from solar and bioenergy.

For 2032, the plan forecasts electricity from nuclear plants will drop to 39 per cent of the provincial supply.

The plan puts emphasis on wind and conservation technologies in particular, with the electricity from those sources forecast to jump to nine and 16 per cent of the provincial supply respectively by 2032.

According to the projections in the report, hydro and gas sources would hold steady at 22 and 10 per cent respectively, while contributions from solar and bioenergy would grow modestly.

The Liberals have vowed to stop coal-burning in the province by the end of 2014.

Long-term energy plans are released every three years.

New AH fire chief logged 27 years on department

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Algonquin Highlands's new fire chief is no stranger to the area.

The township announced last week that Keith Thomas will take over the department when outgoing chief John Hogg retires at the end of the year.

Thomas, of Carnarvon's Francis Thomas Contracting Ltd., is in his 27th year as a local firefighter.

"I've always been at the Stanhope station," the Haliburton native told the *Times*. "When I got into it the mid-80s... my brother-in-law was a firefighter."

Thomas explained he was a member of the Kin Club at the time and his brother-in-law and he had struck on a deal on which they both followed through – his brother-in-law joined the Kin Club and Francis joined what was then the Stanhope fire department.

He became a captain in 1994, then worked his way up to deputy-chief and district chief for Stanhope within the amalgamated Algonquin Highlands fire services, a position he will continue to hold until the calendar turns.

In the meantime, he'll be working with Hogg, learning the proverbial ropes.

It was the words of some trusted advisors that have kept Francis fighting fires so long.

"My grandfather and my dad said do community service," he said. "I found [the fire department] to be the ultimate service club."

Algonquin Highlands fire services includes stations in Stanhope, Dorset and Oxtongue Lake.

"We're looking for volunteers," Thomas said. The Dorset and Oxtongue halls are currently in need of members, but Thomas said he'd take new volunteers for any of the stations.

ER not solution for dental problems

Petition asks provincial government to address dental care funding

Hundreds of visits to local hospital emergency rooms (ERs) could be prevented if residents with serious dental problems had better access to oral health treatment, says the local health unit.

Officials with the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health say there would be significant savings in health-

care costs, and less strain put on local ER doctors, if an investment was made to boost access to dental treatment services. Currently, OHIP pays to treat pain and infection in every part of the body, except for the mouth. This means many adults in Haliburton County and Ontario suffer with pain and infection from poor oral health because they cannot afford to get regular dental treatment. High cost and lack of dental insurance are among the barriers to care.

"Often, people with serious dental problems have no choice but to go to hospital to treat the pain," says Krista Skutovich, a health promoter with the HKPR District Health Unit. "Unfortunately, hospital ERs are not equipped to provide dental treatment, and often can only send the person home with antibiotics or painkillers."

In 2012, there were a total of 472 visits to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services for oral health issues, based on Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care data obtained by the local health unit.

"Most of these ER visits are unnecessary and could be prevented if the person with serious oral health problems had access to a dental professional right away," Skutovich adds. "That is less costly and a much better investment for all of us."

In 2008, the provincial government committed to develop a program to pay dental costs for low-income families. Financial assistance programs were created or expanded, but only cover dental treatment for low-income children – not adults. Even here, the income eligibility for families to access money to pay for dental care is extremely low, meaning many cannot qualify for assistance.

This fall, a petition was presented at Queen's Park asking the Ontario government to address concerns related to dental care funding. The petition calls for any unspent money earmarked to pay for children's dental care instead be redirected to adults who cannot afford care.

"We hope that the issue can be addressed, because a hospital ER is not the cure for dental problems," Skutovich adds.

In this area, the health unit administers a number of financial support programs for families who need urgent dental care. People can find out more by calling the health unit toll-free at 1-866-888-4577 or visiting www.hkpr.on.ca.

In Haliburton County, a Volunteer Dental Outreach Clinic (www.dental-outreach.com) has provided more than \$700,000 in free dental services to assist hundreds of clients in the area. To find out more information about services, local residents can call the Volunteer Dental Outreach Clinic at 705-457-3111.

Merry Christmas

Join Us At MBC



December Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.

15th - Christmas Carols & Specials

22nd - Carols & Christmas Story

Christmas Eve @ 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

29th - Movie UNSTOPPABLE

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH

Please join us for either or both events if you can



Horses Rum and Gin were treating families to sleigh rides all day long during Christmas in the Village in Kinmount on Dec. 7.



Five-year-old Chyanne Thibadeau shares her Christmas list with Santa Claus on Dec. 7 at the Kinmount Legion. Santa made an appearance for the annual Christmas in the Village festivities, which included a lunch at the Legion, sleigh rides, arts and crafts and a gift for each child that visited with Santa given by his helper Brittany Day, right.

A Kinmount Christmas tradition

Santa Claus spreads his jolly cheer to nine-year-old Dallas Fisher on Dec. 7 at the Kinmount Legion. Santa made an appearance for the annual Christmas in the Village festivities, which included a lunch at the Legion, sleigh rides, arts and crafts and a gift for each child that visited with Santa.

Photos by Angelica Blenich



Sixteen-year-old Johnathan Lindel paints a wooden spoon at the Kinmount Community Centre on Dec. 7 during Christmas in the Village. The full day of festivities included a visit with Santa Claus, pancake breakfast, sleigh rides and lunch at the Kinmount Legion.

holiday giving



Century 21 gives back

Realtors from Century 21 Granite Realty Group's Minden office donated \$500 to the Minden Food Bank for the holiday season. From left are David Lee, Ed Gibbons, Andrew Hodgson, Anne Hodgson, food bank president Barbara Walford-Davis, Tom Ecclestone and Melanie Vigrass. All realtors contributed to the donation.

Chad Ingram Staff



'Tis the season for giving

Norm Mills, who chairs the Stanhope airport committee in Algonquin Highlands, presents a \$400 donation to Minden Food Bank president Barbara Walford-Davis on Dec. 4. The Minden Food Bank has nearly 350 registered families.

Chad Ingram Staff



Food for Kids receives funds

Barbara Walford-Davis of the Minden Food Bank hands a cheque for \$2,500 to Aaron Walker of Food for Kids. The money will be used at Archie Stouffer Elementary School for its breakfast and snack programs. The programs run all school year.



Buy a ticket, give back

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation's Cash for Care Lottery was officially launched at the Minden Hospital on Thursday, Dec. 5. Chairperson of the lottery, Steve McLean, addresses the HHHS board members and directors for the fundraiser.

Darren Lum Staff

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Kinmount's community Christmas tree was planted in honour of the Hill family, whose members for years cut down trees from their property and brought them into town as Christmas trees.



Above, Kinmount residents hold candles during the village's annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony on Dec. 5. Below, Pastor Dave Sedore of the Kinmount Baptist Church, Rev. Joan Cavanaugh of St. James Anglican Church and Father Peter Selvaraj gave Christmas blessings at the Kinmount tree-lighting ceremony on Dec. 5.



Kinmount lights up the night

Photos by Chad Ingram

MH recognizes volunteers

Chad Ingram
Staff reporter

Some of the township's benevolent residents were recognized for their deeds with an awards ceremony last week.

The ceremony took place during a volunteer reception hosted by Minden Hills township at the Minden Hills Community Centre on Dec. 5.

The township's good neighbour award went to Canning Lake resident Will Goldsby, who was nominated by neighbour Lois Rigney.

"He just does everything," Rigney said,

explaining why she'd nominated Goldsby for the prize.

Whether it's cutting and removing fallen limbs, moving heavy objects or doing snow-blowing, Rigney said Goldsby is always there to help.

"His answer is, 'no problem,'" Rigney said. "He's just a great neighbour."

The Ross Rigney Award, named for the former Minden Hills reeve and given to youth between aged 12 and 19 for civic contributions, went to Robert Orlowski Jr.

The Gordon A. Monk award went to perennial volunteer Joanna Penfold who dedicates her time to Minden Rotary and Places for People, among other causes.

Festive Fridays

Book your group for a yuletide luncheon in the Heatherwood Restaurant. Every Friday in December. \$18.95 per person

Traditional Christmas Dinner Buffet

Relax in the Heatherwood Restaurant and enjoy an array of traditional Christmas flavours. Dec 25th 5pm-9pm. Also available: Turkey Dinner To-Go \$39.95 per person

New Year's Eve Dinner and Celebration

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New Year's Day Recovery Breakfast

Unwind on New Year's Day with a hearty breakfast buffet in the Heatherwood Restaurant from 7am-1pm. \$15.95 per person

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points of view

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our editorial

Scary stats

THERE ARE PLENTY of disturbing statistics out there.

For example, according to a suspect website specializing in disturbing stats, more than 10 people are killed by vending machines every year. Yikes.

A series of much more chilling stats came from a much more credible source last week as the Ontario Federation of Food Banks released its annual hunger report.

Among them, 30 per cent of food bank users in this province are under the age of 18.

Yep, almost one third of food bank clients in Ontario are kids.

According to the report, nearly 132,000 children access food banks every month.

While the thought of anyone in a country as wealthy as this one going hungry is difficult to comprehend, like any social ailment, it seems more tragic when children are affected.

It's possible that being hungry now will affect their future.

For kids, not only does malnourishment equate to problems concentrating and therefore lower grades at school, it can also affect the very health of their developing brains and bodies.

And hungry children aren't the only younger demographic utilizing food banks.

In the last year alone, the percentage of food bank users who are recent university grads has jumped from .2

per cent to 1.2 per cent.

There was a time when a post-secondary education was almost a golden ticket to a good life, a guarantee of a good job almost directly out of school.

This is, of course, no longer the case.

New grads face an unstable job market where many are lucky to find jobs in their field. For those fortunate enough to find jobs, chances are they'll be low-paying and possibly contract, a practice that is becoming more and more common within both the private and public sectors.

They're also graduating with record debt levels.

Of course, it's not just young people being affected by hunger.

Food bank users run the demographic gamut.

The biggest user group is women over the age of 45 and disproportionately high numbers of First Nations people and immigrants are users.

While the federation is doing work to identify and address the root causes of hunger in the province and while this work is important, in the meantime, the report should serve as reminder of the important role of food banks and that those of us who can afford to give should probably do so a little more often.

In March of last year, more than 375,000 Ontarians used food banks.

That's the entire year-round population of Haliburton County more than 20 times over.



Chad Ingram
Reporter

KWARKY



"YOU KNOW, THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COLLECTING AND HOARDING NUTS. AND THE DIFFERENCE IS NUTS!"

letters to the editor

Will Haliburton's lake trout survive?

To the Editor,

The statement by Jewel Cunningham, director of Ontario Waterways, which appeared in the Dec. 4 *Times* was as follows: "Parks Canada (Trent Severn Waterway) completed the summer/fall drawdown of the reservoir lakes within the Gull River (system) by October to facilitate fish spawning." This statement has no connection to reality. There was growing concern expressed from many lakes about the high levels, from September on. I was not the first person to contact the Trent-Severn Waterway with my concerns.

Most lake trout spawn on rocky shoals at one to six feet in depth, starting about Oct. 10 and lasting about two weeks. During that period this year, lakes from Kushog south to Gull Lake were high - at normal June levels, and continued to rise for several more weeks.

When lower winter levels are finally set, and before eggs hatch in mid-March, 50 to 100 per cent of the eggs could be frozen or left high and

dry, because they were deposited higher up the shore due to higher levels of water. Since the MNR designated most of these as sustainable lake trout lakes, stocking of lake trout stopped in 1991. Natural reproduction is therefore critical for survival of the fishery.

Lake trout occur in only one per cent of the lakes in Ontario. They provide a significant recreational and economic benefit for Haliburton. This resource faces many pressures from overfishing to climate change. It seems ironic that the greatest threat to their survival comes from the ongoing actions of the Trent system.

To quote a former TSW spokesman, "The Trent system was developed by an order in council in 1905. The system is a 19th century artifact with a 19th century mandate that is not meeting the expectations of any of the stakeholders."

Don Benson
Haliburton and Peterborough

points of view

Hey, who doesn't love maple syrup

LAST WEEK, I WROTE a regrettable opinion piece detailing my misgivings about maple syrup. Essentially, I said it wasn't my favourite condiment. Worse still, I made disparaging remarks about pancakes.

What follows is my formal apology and retraction.

Before I begin, however, I'd like to note this act of contrition has nothing to do with the fact that Neil Campbell – a noted local maple syrup producer – and I spoke at length at the company Christmas party immediately after that column appeared in print. (Awkward.)

Nor has it to do with the angry letter I received from the Pancake Manufacturer's Society (PMS), although, somewhere along the line, I've heard it is best not to provoke anyone with PMS.

I would also like to make it under-

stood that I did not fold on my controversial stance just because an old lady glared at me when I walked through the maple syrup section at our grocery store. Contrary to how it appeared, I did not find her overly intimidating. In fact, I think I could have taken her in a fair fight.

No, I have changed my opinion because I realized I was trying to stir up controversy for the sake of controversy. I was trying to make a name for myself as a columnist in hopes of elevating myself to the legendary levels of Peter Wolfe, Hunter S. Thompson and, of course, Woodward and the Berenstain Bears. Again, this was wrong.

So, to set the record straight and clarify what I was trying to say, here is a prepared statement:

Maple syrup is, in fact, the elixir of the Gods and worth every penny that we pay for it. Furthermore, pancakes are not a hoax food perpetrated on society. They are actually scrumptious on their own but, when married to maple syrup – wonderfully, delicious maple syrup – the combination forms the perfect union of food and syrup. Maple syrup and pancakes should, in my opinion, actually be depicted on the Canadian flag and their images ought to be stamped onto our coinage.

Having set the record straight, I would like to move on with my life. You have my word that from here on in, I will not try to stir the pot for self gain. Not unless that pot is filled with delicious

maple syrup, of course.

I know some of you probably think I have been bought and sold by the big corporate pancake producers. That's not true, although Aunt Jemima recently sent me a Christmas card and said I was her favourite nephew.

No, I'm coming clean on this because I have realized that, without integrity, a columnist does not gain the respect of his readers.

There might be other columnists who would stubbornly stick to their guns on opinions they've publicly stated, but I'm proud to say that I can be swayed. All it takes is a sober second thought and the intimidating glare of a little old lady, who rumour has it, doesn't fight fair.

Now pass the maple syrup.

sgalea6953@aol.com



Steve Galea
Beyond 35

Good causes for Christmas

OUT ON SAPSUCKER RIDGE, once The Brown Dog Jiggs and I pay for the essentials, the two of us always have something left over to waste on food and shelter.

Or we have had so far. But the two of us are senior citizens and so we are a little biased. After all these years, we think no senior should have to worry about where his or her next meal is coming from.

Which is why making a cash donation to Community Care Haliburton County's Feed A Senior program would be a splendid way to celebrate this season of giving.

This is our 10th annual column on worthy Haliburton causes and somehow food and shelter usually lead off our gift list. That probably makes sense in a county where so many folks are just scraping by.

About a hundred senior or disabled citizens depend on the Feed A Senior program. In our corner of the county, the Minden Food Bank has 324 clients.

This year's list of good causes has 32 of them. No doubt it could have a hundred. Often they need volunteers as well as dollars.

Many of them issue tax receipts, which is a good thing, because it allows you to give a little more and forces government, which used to care for the needy, to chip in too.

For each worthy cause, we list a name (usually) and a telephone number. Just call and ask how you can help.

For example, to find out more about Community Care's projects, call Maureen Ruttig at 457-2941.

Much of the funding for Feed A Senior comes from the Minden Food Bank (\$6,000) and Haliburton's 4Cs (\$30,000), but that's

not enough. This month's focus is a Fresh Fruit Campaign, designed to put more fruit in seniors' diets.

A gift of \$100 would buy about 15 meals for seniors or the disabled, but there's far more to Community Care than Feed A Senior. The agency organizes Meals on Wheels and offers support to seniors and their care-givers to help them remain in their homes.

Once upon a time, those who can't feed themselves would have been told to get a job. That's not much of a solution if you're 80 years old and in a wheelchair.

Nor is it much help to many of the food bank's clients, who have jobs but don't have enough left over after rent and heat and hydro to feed themselves.

Besides keeping them fed, the Food Bank needs help raising its share of the cost of putting a new first floor under Minden's Masonic Lodge that will give it much-needed storage space. Barb Walford-Davis, 489-1715.

Food For Kids provides more than 4,000 school breakfasts and snacks a week to Haliburton school children. Aaron Walker, 754-1669.

SIRCH Community Services provides food security programs, school readiness, hospice and bereavement supports and programs for expectant mothers and families with young children. 457-1742.

Man cannot live by food alone. Especially if he can't chew it, which is where Volunteer Dental Outreach for Haliburton County comes in. It provides free dental care for low-income residents – 372 patients

and 2,063 appointments so far, receiving \$740,000 worth of care. Every dentist in the county is involved. Lisa Kerr, 457-3111.

Then there's shelter. Places For People creates affordable rental accommodations in the county. It's about to acquire a third property in Minden. Max Ward, 286-3592.

Once you have a roof over your head, you need to keep yourself warm. In an emergency, Fuel for Warmth tides folks over with enough fuel for two to three weeks. Donate cash or fuel. 489-3324.

The Minden and Haliburton hospital auxiliaries and the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation

are each raising money for one medication dispensing unit. For the Minden auxiliary: Val du Manoir, 286-3101.

The Foundation, which supports hospitals and nursing homes in Minden and Haliburton, has more: vital signs monitors, a heart monitor, a portable ultrasound machine... Dale Walker, 286-1580.

Yet another Foundation, Kinmount Health Services also has technology on its wish list. It wants a voice recognition system, which will translate vocal dictation into written material at the Kinmount and District Health Centre. Dave Warren, 454-8220.

The Alzheimer Society, though based in Lindsay, provides support for individuals in Haliburton diagnosed with dementia, and for their care-givers through support groups and home visits. 878-0126.

The Dorset Community Partnership, which focuses on projects for the betterment of the area, has pledged to bring a nursing station to town that would house a proposed nurse practitioner. Collin Reaney, 766-0616.

The YWCA Women's Centre offers free, confidential counselling and support services to women experiencing abuse in their lives, and may provide a safe haven for women and their children fleeing abuse. Daisy Downs, 286-1942.

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents buys Christmas gifts for children and families, sends children to camp and runs an after-school recreation program in Minden. Lisa Hamilton, 457-5345.

Haliburton County Special Olympics gives folks with special needs a chance to play sports. Haliburton Red Wolves have teams in bowling, curling, softball and golf. Yvette Brauer, 488-2282.

Haliburton's great outdoors has plenty of advocates. FEEL (Friends of Ecological and Environmental Learning) advances awareness, understanding and appreciation of ecosystems through education. Norm Thomas, 286-3323.

FEEL sponsors the Haliburton-Muskoka-Kawartha Lakes Children's Water Festival, which gave 1,100 children a chance to engage in 47 outdoor water-based activities at no charge in 2012. Irene Heaven, 286-3181.

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary has helped more than 900 animals and birds, many of which were successfully released back into the wild. Monika Melichar, 286-1133.

see page 8

neilcampbell@xplornet.ca



Neil Campbell
Back of Beyond

from page 7

Environment Haliburton protects and restores the Highlands’ natural heritage through advocacy, education and action. Carolyn Coburn, 754-9859.

Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association works for the great outdoors, at improving wetlands and restocking native and rainbow trout here and in Muskoka. One tank at its fish hatchery has been replaced. It needs \$10,000 to replace another. Melissa Baker, 457-9664.

The Haliburton Land Trust runs an adopt-

an-acre campaign to support its acquisition of the Dahl Forest near Gelert, one of four properties held by the Trust, which aims to preserve our landscape for future generations. 457-3700.

Sapsucker Ridge is smack dab in the middle of The Land Between, the transition zone on the southern margins of the Canadian Shield that reaches from Georgian Bay to Kingston. The Land Between is also a Haliburton-based group that aims to promote understanding of that territory and protect it for the future. Leora Berman, 457-4838.

You should stop and smell the flowers

when you’re in Kinmount’s village park. The Kinmount Committee for Planning and Development plans a gazebo beside the millennium garden which also offers a view of the Burnt River. Diane Austin, 488-2635.

Irondale Community Church, which was Anglican until quite recently, was built in 1887. An update of the parish hall is the latest restoration step by a group called Bark Lake Cultural Developments. Carol Simmons, 457-8438.

The Friends of Twelve-Mile Lake Historical Church preserve the church Scots Presbyterianians built south of Carnarvon 123 years

ago. They’re having a bake sale on Saturday. Sinclair Russell, 457-0282.

Minden Firefighters Association funds equipment purchases for the fire department – just recently a \$4,000 rescue raft for ice and water rescue. Doug Schell, 286-1260.

Haliburton’s helping hands reach overseas. HAVE (Help A Village Effort) improves the quality of life in rural India with wells that provide clean water for drinking, cooking and bathing, and with toilets that improve sanitation. Ron Reid, 489-2431.

Haliburton Highlands Grannies, with 60 members across the county, supports the

Stephen Lewis Foundation in its efforts to help African grandmothers raise AIDS orphans. Carol McClellan, 286-2644.

Culture is bursting out all over in the Highlands. Most visibly, the Highlands Summer Festival and the Highlands Opera Studio provide summer entertainment.

There’s far more to the Opera Studio than meets the eye. It’s a school for young professional singers selected through a rigorous cross-country audition process. It’s free for the singers; donations and tickets for their performances pay the bills. 457-9933.

The Summer Festival brings live theatre to Haliburton. Donations support the festival, but also help with upgrades to the theatre. Also, 457-9933.

The arts are alive at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, which includes a museum and pioneer village, the Agnes Jamieson Gallery and Nature’s Place. Donations fund everything from children’s workshops to managing a collection of Andre Lapine paintings. Laurie Carmount, 286-3763.

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library support all eight library branches, raising funds for special book collections, programming and library enhancements. Linda Heeps, 457-2064.



2013 Household Hazardous Waste Day Statistics

Hazardous waste is considered potentially dangerous to humans and the environment. Household items such as motor oil, paint, fluorescent bulbs, solvents, corrosive materials, some cleaning products and pesticides, may be toxic and need to be disposed of properly. Treatment includes processes that change the waste or neutralize it to make it safe for transportation, storage, or disposal.

The Township of Minden Hills is committed to the environment, and have set aside 5 days each year from May to October to allow all residents of Minden Hills, both seasonal and fulltime, the opportunity to dispose of their household hazardous waste safely. Collection days are historically on the Saturday of every long weekend beginning in May and concluding in October. Any inquiries should be directed to Ivan Ingram, Environmental & Property Operations Manager at iingram@mindenhills.ca.

Total Number of Events for 2013: 5

Location of Events: **SCOTCHLINE LANDFILL**

Event No. 1 May 18, 2013

Event No.2 June 29, 2013

Material Collected	Quantity (kg's)		Material Collected	Quantity (kg's)
Propane Tanks: Non Refillable	290		Propane Tanks: Non Refillable	165
Aerosols	1620		Aerosols	220
Fire Extinguishers	155		Flammable Liquids	1980
Flammable Liquids	1885		Dry Cell Batteries	350
Dry Cell Batteries	420		Pesticides	65
Paint/Paint Related Materials	2230		Corrosive Liquids	140
Oil	1165		Fluorescent Tubes	4
			Paint/Paint Related Materials	1570
			Oil/Filters	550

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs

Report is a good analysis; not a cover up

To the Editor,

As members of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) executive committee we are writing in response to a letter from Mr. Fox of Kushog Lake which you published on Dec. 3 under the heading “Report is a clever cover up” as well as to other commentaries in the local media that TSW have done nothing to respond to current high water level conditions.

The coalition does not believe the AECOM/TSW report on the spring flood is a cover up, nor do we believe that the TSW caused the spring flood. We believe the AECOM /TSW report is a good analysis, albeit constrained in scope. We also do not believe that the TSW is solely responsible for the high water levels this fall. Detailed commentaries on the report, as well as on the fall water levels, are available on the coalition website at www.cewf.ca.

With respect to last spring, we believe TSW staff acted in all our interests when they began filling reservoirs in January in response to a snow-pack that was significantly below normal. Based on the experience in 2010 when reservoirs did not fill until well into July, and in 2012 when reservoirs were filled early with limited snowpack runoff before we experienced a drought lasting until early August, we understand and support the TSW efforts to track and respond to snow conditions and ensure the reservoirs are filled by spring. Despite starting to fill the reservoirs early, by mid-April the water levels in most reservoir lakes were close to their long-term average levels demonstrating the appropriateness of the TSW’s actions. Accordingly, we do not agree with claims that suggest TSW made a “fatal mistake” by beginning to fill reservoirs in January. As the AECOM study makes clear the flooding resulted directly from record extreme rain-

fall in late April. Like it or not, it is important to understand that the reservoirs are not operated by TSW as a spring flood control system. With respect to this fall, it is our understanding that the TSW completed all log adjustments down to “winter set” levels before the end of September in accordance with fisheries considerations. The lakes were draining and most of the reservoirs were close to their typical fall water levels. The one general exception was that the reservoir lakes

upstream of Minden, including Kushog Lake, were typically some 20mm (eight inches) above average in early October. The October precipitation recorded at Environment Canada’s Haliburton station totalled 207 mm, which is more than twice the normal precipitation of 97 mm. Furthermore the rain fell in four major storm events between the Oct. 6 and Oct. 31. The result was a saturated watershed and very heavy runoff to the lakes causing all reser-

voirs to rise well above their normal fall levels in spite of the fact that logs were at their low winter set levels. Similar record levels have been experienced on the flow-through lakes and on the connecting rivers. The Gull River in Minden, a natural flow constraint in the system, has been flowing at just below flood level since mid-October. All logs were removed from Gull Lake dam downstream

see LOW page 14



Event No. 3 Aug 3, 2013

Material Collected	Quantity (kg's)
Propane Tanks: Non Refillable	640
Aerosols	220
Flammable Liquids	2375
Pesticides	135
Corrosive Liquids	120
Oxidizing Liquids	35
Paint/Paint Related Materials	1675
Oil/Filters	765

Event No. 4 Aug 31, 2013

Material Collected	Quantity (kg's)
Propane Tanks: Non Refillable	55
Aerosols	295
Flammable Liquids	1290
Pesticides	75
Corrosive Liquids	150
Oxidizing Liquids	65
Paint/Paint Related Materials	1520
Oil/Filters	700

Event No. 5 Oct 12, 2013

Material Collected	Quantity (kg's)
Propane Tanks: Non Refillable	220
Aerosols	1075
Flammable Liquids	1560
Pesticides	210
Corrosive Liquids	90
Paint/Paint Related Materials	2425
Oil	1150

A Total of 28,936 kg's or 64,000 lbs. of hazardous materials were collected in 2013 at the Scotchline Landfill site, which is the equivalent weight of 10 full-size pickup trucks of hazardous material that did not end up in the landfill.

Congratulations to all of the ratepayers of Minden Hills for your continuing support and participation in this program.

Space provided through a partnership between industry and Ontario municipalities to support waste diversion programs

county news

Report reflects changing face of hunger

Chad Ingram

Staff reporter

The 2013 hunger report from the Ontario Association of Food Banks is a grim glimpse into the empty cupboards of the province.

Hundreds of thousands of Ontario residents rely on food banks each month in order to eat, the report shows.

Approximately 30 per cent of food bank users are children under the age of 18.

According to the report, nearly 132,000 children access food banks each month and in March of 2013, more than 375,000 Ontarians used them.

"This is higher than the population of London, Ont., or of cities such as Guelph, Kingston and Thunder Bay combined," the report reads.

For the province overall, 45 per cent of food bank clients are women over the age of 18; 3.7 are post-secondary students; 3.9 are senior citizens; 6.3 are First Nations people; and

11.1 per cent are immigrants or refugees.

Those figures change when just rural Ontario is examined, with 46.7 per cent of clients being women over the age of 18; 1.5 post-secondary students; 4.4 senior citizens; 17.2 First Nations people; and 0.2 immigrants or refugees.

In terms of family composition, 43.6 per cent of clients in the province are single people; 25.6 are single-parent families; 20.6 are two-parent families; and 10.3 per cent are couples with no children.

More and more recent university grads are using food banks.

The demographic accounts for approximately one per cent of food bank users throughout the province, but has spiked from 0.2 per cent to 1.2 per cent in rural Ontario in the past year.

"It has become difficult to find a university without a food bank or hunger relief program," the report reads. "What's more, recent graduates often find themselves leaving school with astronomical debts and sig-

nificant challenges in finding a well-paying job in their field. The Canadian Federation of Students reported that the average student in Canada graduates university with \$37,000 in debt."

The report also showed that 65 per cent of food bank users in the province are rental tenants and that the average client spends more than 70 per cent of his or her income on housing.

Eleven per cent of clients in rural Ontario earn income through a job, while more than 33 per cent rely on social assistance. Nearly 35 per cent of food bank users in rural Ontario are on provincial disability support and just less than nine per cent are pensioners.

Less than .4 per cent are homeless.

Overall rates have dropped from statistical highs in 2012, when more than 412,000 Ontario residents used food banks in one month.

However, rates remain higher than during the 2008 recession and far outpace pre-

recession levels by more than 50,000 people a month.

Locally, the Minden Food Bank has 349 registered families, with approximately 90 families visiting monthly.

These figures are up from last year.

Numbers are also up at the 4Cs food bank in Haliburton, which is up to 310 registered households.

"We had 11 new ones in November, and I've had quite a few already this month," director Judy MacDuff said.

During the summer, the number of families using 4Cs each month dips into the 80s, but reaches up to 120 or more during the wintertime.

MacDuff attributes this to the large amount of seasonal work in the community. The 4Cs is still getting calls for its Christmas assistance program, with 207 families requesting help as of Dec. 5.



Sunny Variety demolished

Guenter Horst sent in this photo on Dec. 5 of Sunny Variety being taken down. The property was purchased by the Township of Minden Hills.

RIDE program checks 2,000 cars, finds one impaired driver

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have been actively conducting RIDE checks throughout Haliburton County as part of the festive RIDE program.

After the second week of the campaign officers have conducted 42 RIDE checks, with 2,010 vehicles checked; one driver charged with impaired driving; six roadside tests conducted and 10 Highway Traffic Act charges.

There were also two non-RIDE related impaired driving charges.

The festive RIDE campaign runs from Nov. 23 to Jan. 2.

Man charged with drunk driving in Minden Hills

On Dec. 7, OPP officers responded to a motor vehicle collision on County Road 503 in the Township of Minden Hills.

As a result of the investigation a 35-year-old man from Stouffville was charged with operating a motor vehicle with over 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood and possession of a controlled substance - marijuana.

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on Jan. 8.

Gooderham collision leads to charges

On Nov. 30, OPP officers responded to a motor vehicle collision on County Road 507 at County Road 503 in Gooderham in the municipality of Highlands East.

As a result of the investigation a 70-year-old man from Pefferlaw was charged with impaired driving; operating a motor vehicle with over 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood; driving while disqualified and driving while under suspension.

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on Jan. 8.

Algonquin Highlands man charged with impaired driving

On Dec. 8, OPP officers were conducting a RIDE check at Highway 35 and Little Hawk Lake road in the Township of Algonquin Highlands.

A vehicle was stopped at the check area and as a result of the investigation a 46-year-old man from Algonquin Highlands was charged with operating a motor vehicle with over 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood and driving while under suspension.

The accused is scheduled to appear in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden on Jan. 8.

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Partnership with Ross Memorial Hospital to benefit HHHS

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

The following are briefs from the Haliburton Highlands Health Services board of directors meeting at the Minden boardroom on Thursday, Dec. 5.

A new partnership is promising to be a positive step towards an overall better picture for local health care.

The HHHS is proceeding with the integrated medical imaging management proposal from Ross Memorial Hospital in the City of Kawartha Lakes.

This will be beneficial, as the relationship will allow service for local patients requiring medical imaging.

Ross Memorial will give assistance with planning and management of imaging services.

It will provide local diagnostics for imaging services such as ultrasound and mammography. It will not only lessen travel for patients but improve service.

"It's a major move," chairperson Len Logozar said.

Currently, the HHHS offers ultrasound through a private provider three days a week in Haliburton.

This partnership will allow service five days a week.

The integration plan has associated costs of an estimated \$750,000, pertaining to set up and implementation of information sys-

tems. It will start in the next fiscal year and the plan will be implemented over the next two years.

Logozar thanked the HHHSF for its overall efforts. "Without you we'd be dead in the water," he said.

CEO's report

- Several weeks ago, the Ministry of Labour inspections, which were part of a province-wide audit of health-care facilities, resulted in good and bad news.

CEO and president Varouj Eskedjian said the good news is the ministry didn't identify any "musculoskeletal hazards" or injury hazards to its health-care workers at Hyland Crest and Highland Wood.

"The bad news is we got some orders. We addressed orders they had, which were primarily allotted to joint health safety committee meetings. They weren't meeting as frequently because they had some turnover on their meetings. We got them back on schedule, meeting on a regular basis, on a monthly basis. The other thing is all their policies and procedures that they need to review they're going to be on regular cycle of review," he said.

He adds other "minor" concerns were addressed practically the next day.

Of all lost time injuries 46 per cent are for "musculoskeletal hazards" for health-care employees.

- The 80 per cent influenza immunization

compliance rate for HHHS staff impressed Eskedjian.

He congratulated his staff for the high compliance rate to minimize the risk to patients.

- The board confirmed the government's base budget adjustment, bringing \$86,000 increase over last year.

Hiccup for strategic planning

Eskedjian said from the four companies (two independent and two large) only one responded to give a quote for strategic planning, which was more than \$100,000.

This was far costlier than acceptable. This is "not a starter for us," he said.

Eskedjian said the March deadline isn't lost yet.

"We still have a bit of time, but it has left me scrambling," he said.

Logozar suggested extending the March timeline if Eskedjian cannot find another quote with a little more than a month.

He adds extending the deadline to June will not only give more time, but also enable a better plan.

'Tis the season for receiving

The health foundation's Dale Walker said \$46,000 has been raised in a little less than a month for the Christmas Campaign, which has a \$100,000 goal.

The money is for priority medical equipment.

Outside the campaign, the foundation received \$77,000 in donations in one week.

Auxiliaries share good news

The Minden Hospital Auxiliary said this past French themed dinner gala, A Night in Paris, on Nov. 16 was the "best ever," raising \$11,500.

Next year's gala will have a new theme.

It is being dubbed Winter in the Highlands and is scheduled for Nov. 22.

The Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary has raised \$25,000 of the \$40,000 goal for the automatic dispenser unit. Overall, the auxiliary has already raised \$62,000 of the \$86,000 since starting Aug. 1.



18th Annual Christmas Challenge

Join the Challenge and help us to make a difference

As the Christmas party season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the 4C's and Minden Food Bank for families in need.

Step 1: Call in advance to the Home Builders Office 457-6901, Members of the Home Builders Association will pick up your gifts and deliver them to the workshops in Haliburton and Minden.

Step 2: Collect unwrapped toys or food items at your office or your Christmas Party.

Remember
to make the most of the Challenge have your gifts ready for pick up BEFORE December 16th. Early delivery to the *workshops* means the elves have enough time to prepare for Christmas.

This is the 18th anniversary of the Christmas Challenge. Whether this is the first year you have taken the challenge or the 18th year all gifts are needed. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates. A value of \$15.00 each make is easy to top up gifts for families who have teenagers.

Call 705-457-6901 and book your gift pick up date early then start collecting.

Drop off locations, where the public are invited to drop off until Dec. 16th

Village Donuts, Haliburton
V & S Stedman's, Haliburton
Cordell Carpet
Moose Fm
Canoe Fm
LCBO – Minden
Minden Home Hardware
Dollo's Foodland





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Jim Ashley	Ross Edwards	Alexander & Irena Ugge	Michael & Judith Bowker
Sharon Kent	John Simington	John & Sandra Smith	John & Eleanor Wyss
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Lloyd Darlington	Douglas Blaney	Ron & Sylvia Wright	Alexander Campbell
Sharon Eva Hughes	Donald J. Harrison	Paul McLachlan	Greg & Liz Sutton

Donor Names & Special People

The following supporters wished to make their donation to honour and celebrate the life of someone special.

Patricia Hodgson	William Hodgson	Cathy Whelen	my husband, Dr. Warren	Warren Service	Rilla Service
Ada Campbell	H. Douglas Campbell	Audrey Macpherson	Robert & Olive Macpherson	Daryl Poirier	Sharon Poirier
Eileen Adams	Mary Salvatori (mom)	Susan Reid	my husband, Fred Reid	Ken & Phyllis Brown	Evelyn Ruth Reid
Donna Acton	Rick Elstone	Sunny Strath	Alan Strath	Max & Lillian Quackenbush	George & Joan Anthon
Gerald & Gloria Taylor	Maizie Taylor	Lois Emmerson	William Emmerson	Mike & Lynda Moffatt	Kelly Moffatt
Claire Brown	Douglas Brown	Lloyd Rockett	Ernice Donaldson	Ruby Curl	my son, Dave
David R. Lee	Paul Bernats	Romeo & Hilary Paradis	Brian Hodgkinson	Warren & Jean Kirkness	Kay & Vic Ouellet
B. & M. Crowder	M.P. Chas & Mrs. Etta Lamb	Fred Morgan	Gail Morgan	Trevor R. Barker	Mr. Tommy Thompson
Morley & Dreena Kent	Allan & Mabel Kent	Rose Connaughan	Vince Connaughan	Gwen Scott	Arthur Scott, my husband
Norma Crewson	Fred Crewson	Howard & Clara Higgins	Sheila Mitchell	Michael D. Barber	Marie Barber

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Keeping motivated and moving in winter

➤ Cold weather and snow can make being active harder, but there are ways to embrace the winter

Sue Shikaze
Health Promoter
HKPR Health Unit

As winter approaches, you might be finding that it's getting harder to stick to your goals – things like cold or wet weather, darkness, icy streets and sidewalks may be barriers that you're having a hard time overcoming. So, how to build or maintain your motivation through the rest of the winter?

Addressing barriers

If weather keeps you from getting outside, try having a plan B for days when the weather keeps you from doing what you had planned. For example, if it's freezing rain on the day you planned to take your walk, choose another day.

Keeping an eye on the weekly weather forecast can help plan out the best days to get out. Or do an indoor activity – an exercise DVD, or try public skating. Most importantly, do not let a missed day or two throw you completely off target.

Remember this: there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing! Especially in winter, having the right clothes can make the difference between being uncomfortable or having an enjoyable experience. Dress in layers, wear a hat, and have good warm footwear.

If time has presented a challenge, remember that you can accumulate the recommended 30 minutes of daily physical activity in 10-minute increments. So look for ways in your daily living to build a bit more activity in: walk to do errands in town, park farther from the store so you have to walk more, take the stairs.

Keep track

Writing down your activities can help you stay motivated. It's a tangible way to show your progress. For example, get a pedometer and keep track of your steps. Research shows that people who wear pedometers walk more. Another way to do this is add physical activity to your "to do" list and make it equally as important as your other daily tasks.

Find a friend

Find people to get active with. For many people, being active together is easier than going it alone. Also, if you know you're meeting someone, for example for a walk, it's harder to back out.

Be realistic

Plan your activities when it is convenient for you. If you are not a morning person, do not plan to walk early in the morning or you'll just be setting yourself up for failure.

Choose activities that you like or think you'll like – being active should be fun!

Be safe

For winter walking, wear traction devices on your boots. If you're walking on roads, always walk facing traffic. In dark and low light conditions, be sure to wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight or headlamp. It's important to see and be seen.

For winter activities like downhill skiing, snowboarding, skating and tobogganing, protect your head with a properly fitted helmet to absorb the force from a crash or fall. Be sure the helmet fits; it should be snug, not loose. Most helmets have ways to fine-tune the fit. The helmet should also be the right one for the sport. For tobogganing, a hockey, skiing or bike helmet can do the trick.

Remember to reward yourself for successes

Reward yourself on a regular basis. It doesn't have to be anything big or expensive; it could be something as simple as an extra half hour in bed on the weekend! The key is to recognize your success along the way. Don't wait for six months or a year to give yourself a big pat on the back.

Why bother?

Keeping active in the winter benefits your physical *and* mental health.

Regular physical activity helps to maintain a healthy weight, can help manage stress and anxiety, and reduces risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and type 2 diabetes.



Snowshoers participate in one of Yours Outdoors' excursions in Haliburton County called On The Trapline in this file photo. Snowshoeing is one of the best ways to explore the wilderness of the Highlands. Several groups and businesses exist around the county that can help you embrace winter and stay active, even when it's cold and snowy outside.



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OPP fill a cruiser for local food banks

On Saturday Dec. 7, OPP officers from the Haliburton Highlands participated in the Fill-a-Cruiser food drive event in Haliburton County.

Both regular force and auxiliary officers volunteered their personal time to assist in the annual event.

Close to 3,000 pounds of food and almost \$400 in cash was delivered to the food banks in Minden and Haliburton during this time of need.

"It was exceptional the way our community donated to such a worthwhile cause to make sure that people in Haliburton County will have food on their tables during the holiday season," said OPP Staff Sgt. Chad Bark.

Officers would like to thank the store owners and managers at Easton's Valumart, Dollo's Foodland, Park's Foodland and Todd's Independent and most importantly the community for making this initiative a great success.

- Submitted



Clockwise, from above, auxiliary police officer Joel Parker, centre, fills the back of an OPP cruiser with bags of food for the Minden Food Bank on Dec. 7 at Easton's Valumart in Minden. OPP staff were at all four grocery stores in the county collecting both food and cash donations for the local food banks.

Residents in Minden showed their Christmas generosity for the annual OPP Fill a Cruiser event on Dec. 7. Held at four stores across the county, Fill a Cruiser collected both food and monetary donations for the Haliburton and Minden food banks. Const. Matt Leach, left, and auxiliary member Joel Parker accept a bag of food from a shopper at Easton's Valumart.

OPP staff help collect food from Easton's Valumart on Dec. 7 to be donated to the Minden Food Bank. From left, John Fountain, auxiliary, Lynda Easton, store owner, Joel Parker, auxiliary, Geoff Bunn, auxiliary, Const. Matt Leach.

Angelica Blenich Staff



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☐ Haliburton Highlands Today

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☐ Other

How long do you keep our magazines?

- ☐ Less than one month
☐ One to six months
☐ Six months to a year
☐ Over a year

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 (check any that apply)

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Annual Christmas bird count coming up

Every year brings new surprises on the annual Christmas Bird Count. We look forward to this year's count, Saturday, Dec. 14, to see what excitement awaits.

Last year's new birds were merlin, red-bellied woodpecker and hermit thrush, bringing the count total over the 46 years since 1967 to 102 species. Of course many of those birds, such as ruddy duck, Barrow's goldeneye and boreal owl have been found on only one count. A handful of species, including black-capped chickadees and blue jays, are recorded every year, although numbers vary depending on available wild food supplies.

Numbers of species reported on any one year are usually in the low to mid-50s. There are several factors that determine what birds are here in Haliburton County in mid-December. Perhaps most important is available wild food.

Species often referred to as "winter finches" will travel to whatever parts of North America have the best supply of tree seeds. Red and white-winged crossbills even have specialized beaks designed to pry open cones on evergreens to extract the seeds hidden inside. Redpolls, goldfinches, purple finches and pine siskins feed on birch seeds as well as those from larches, spruce, balsam fir, cedar and hemlock.

But a bumper crop of seeds on trees in Haliburton County doesn't guarantee a banner year for winter finches here. Only when the crop in this part of Ontario is the best on the continent will these winter wanderers arrive in huge numbers. We think of spring as the season for birds to sing, build nests, lay eggs and raise families. But crossbills and pine siskins time their nesting whenever and wherever tree seeds are available to feed voracious nestlings.

The bubbly song of white-winged crossbills singing at sunrise along the Opeongo Road in Algonquin Park is beautiful to hear. But to experience this on New Year's Day when the temperature is minus 35 F is certainly a pleasant surprise.

This year, the wild food crop in Haliburton is fairly good. But most of the boreal forest to the north and west has as good or better crop. So the numbers of winter finches arriving here will likely be limited.

Most affected will be species that travel farthest such as redpolls. Bumper crops of native mountain ash berries in the northern boreal forest mean that pine grosbeaks don't have to come south for food. Ash trees have huge crops of seeds this year as well, so evening grosbeak numbers will be down from last year.

American goldfinches breed here and will stay around in numbers, so expect them at feeders with niger or black sunflower seed. Some purple finches will have stayed north, and a very few stray pine siskins may show up. A

good crop of acorns and white pine seeds has kept many blue jays around. Very few migrated out of the province this autumn. Dark-eyed junco numbers are up as well. Many will remain as long as snow depths under evergreens are limited. Most red-breasted nuthatches and black-capped chickadees stayed north too, but unlike blue jays, numbers at feeders may not reflect this.

The designated period for conducting Christmas bird counts used to vary, but was standardized a few years ago to begin on Dec. 14 and end on Jan. 5. We try to hold the count here as early as possible to include the variety of waterfowl species concentrated here as lakes and rivers to the north freeze over. Next year the count will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14.

To check results from past counts, go to the National Audubon website. This count is named "Minden" after the largest town in the count circle and the code is ONMN.

The circle extends from Kinmount in the south to Mount Lake in the north and east to Irondale, Gelert, Lochlin and Ingoldsby.

It was selected to include the most open water in the Gull River and Burnt River systems. So far, small lakes, and bays on larger lakes have frozen, but rivers and the main parts of large lakes are still open, and snow cover is still limited. So hope for calm weather that's not too cold on Dec. 14.

Stock your feeders with sunflower seed and niger, scatter some millet or cracked corn on the ground for the juncos and mourning doves, and hang up some suet for the gray jays and nuthatches. Call to join us on Dec. 14, but, most importantly, let us know what birds are at your feeders and around your neighbourhood so they're included in this year's totals.

Contact Ed, Thom or Dennis as soon as possible to join a group on December 14.

To report birds at your feeder, phone 705-286-1189 between 5 and 7 p.m. on Dec. 14, or phone Ed or Thom on Dec. 15. Or you can e-mail your results to Dennis or mail them to Dennis Barry, 338 Crystal Beach Blvd. Whitby, ON L1N 9Z7. Species not seen by anyone on Dec. 14, but found on Dec. 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 or 17 will be recorded as Count Week birds. Numbers of individuals are not recorded for birds seen on any day except Dec. 14. We just want to know, for example, that, while no one saw a golden eagle anywhere in the count circle on Dec. 14, one was spotted circling over Gelert on Dec. 16.

Thom Lambert 457-9110 singing.dog@sympatico.ca
 Ed Poropat 457-3018 ed.barb@sympatico.ca
 Dennis Barry 905-725-2116 dbarry@interlinks.net
Submitted by Dennis Barry

Low water levels a concern for spawning

from page 9

of Minden so the TSW has taken effective action to drain the system as quickly as possible. Any removal of logs from lakes upstream of Minden would cause increased discharge and flooding in the town. It needs to be recognized that it takes a long time to drain the Gull River system even when all dams are open at their winter setting. As the ground freezes and precipitation stays more consistently as snow, the lakes can be expected to drop through the winter back to normal pre-spring levels. This process has already started. We do not agree with Mr. Fox who implies TSW actions have created high fall levels and claims levels have been "rising since September" nor that the "TSW has flooded out" the fish spawning. While the water

level on some lakes, like Halls Lake, did rise in September we note that Kushog Lake actually fell some two feet. Concerns about the trout spawn are related to low water levels, which may expose the eggs to freezing and predators.

We believe TSW has managed water levels in a responsible way throughout a difficult year. The damaging record levels experienced in both spring and fall reflect extreme rainfall events beyond the control of the TSW system. It is not helpful to ignore the facts and cast blame on TSW for these events.

**Bruce McClelland (Gull Lake) and
 Bill Cornfield (Horseshoe Lake)**

HHSS festival of fun for PALS students

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Badminton Dance Festival for Practical Academics and Life Skills students proved there is more to sport than winning, as everyone felt a sense of accomplishment in the opportunity to play.

They basked in the support and encouragement of loved ones and each other.

This inaugural event drew 65 students from across the school board on Tuesday, Dec. 3, who came from host school Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, Bracebridge Muskoka Lakes Secondary School, Huntsville High School, Lindsay Collegiate Vocational Institute, Fenelon Falls Secondary School and neighbouring J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School.

Faculty members Brianne Pockett and Tim Davies were the main organizers with help from colleague Bruce Griffith and Judi Paul and her class, who helped make lunch.

Pockett got the idea for the event from her PALS student Ryan Draper, who is passionate for badminton.

"It was watching Ryan that was my inspiration because he loved it," she said. "Why not involve other schools and do it? It's not about competition. We're not keeping score. It's just about mingling with other schools and

exposing these kids to other people that are just like them and seeing there is more."

The educational assistant has every intention to keep the event going.

"I think it will be awesome if we can do it again. If we can do it here it's great for us it's great for the kids. Wherever it's held it's a bonus that we're holding it and if we can do it again every year I would love to," she said.

Davies said this event gives the PALS students an opportunity for organized play like any other students.

"Anything we can do to make their school experience a happier one then we should do it," he said. "First and foremost is to have fun playing badminton and dancing today."



Above, Left, Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Jeffery Coulson, right, receives a high-five from Nadia Pagliaro.



Darren Lum Staff

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School educational assistant Brianne Pockett, left, and student Ryan Draper were central behind the inaugural Badminton Dance Festival at the high school in Haliburton on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Home is where the wins are for Red Hawks girls

Darren Lum
Staff reporter

It was great to be home for the girls' Red Hawks hockey team who rediscovered the win column after losing on the road the week before.

A 4-0 win against the Fenelon Falls Secondary School Falcons at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton on Tuesday, Dec. 3 improves the Hawks to 2-1-0.

Red Hawks coach Dan Marsden said a slow first period was addressed during the first intermission, refocusing his team.

"We were a little sluggish out of the blocks and I had to have a little bark at them between the first and second period. I just got them back to thinking about what we had been doing. They got away from it a little bit," he said. "I had to go get some Tylenol. When I came back it was 1-0 so I said, 'Maybe I should leave the rink more often.'"

The very skilled and quick skating Sydney Cameron, who finished with two points (goal and assist), started the offensive deluge when she opened the second with a quick goal.

She skated right through the Falcons' defence and ripped a shot past Falcons goalkeeper Laura O'Neill, who was the busier of the two goalies facing more than twice the shots.

This was quickly followed by two more unanswered Red Hawks' goals in the second period.

Sydney Feir added the first, followed by Ali-



Darren Lum Staff

Red Hawks hockey player Kelsey Maracle, left, looks to score on FFSS Falcons goalie Laura O'Neill at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton on Tuesday, Dec. 3. The Hawks overcame a scoreless first period with four unanswered goal to win 4-0. They improve to 2-1-0.

cia McLean, who added the insurance marker in the third period.

Marsden points to confidence for the slew of goals.

"It's all confidence. Confidence is the thing. We always seem to be play better with a lead.

I mean that's for every team, but when we're behind it's a struggle sometimes so it's always good to get that first goal," he said.

Although the Red Hawks easily dominated puck possession, the Falcons came close to scoring the first goal of the game in the dying

seconds of the first period.

However, Red Hawks' goalie Connor Marsden had other ideas when she made a diving save on a loose puck in front of the net.

"I told her we were should be down 1-0," Marsden said, referring to the intermission. "Good save, Connor."

He said the Falcons' scoring chance was because his team stopped moving and was "stale in their zone."

The dominant win comes after a 2-0 loss to I.E. Weldon Wildcats a week before.

Marsden said that game was closer than the score indicates, as the first was a "fluky goal" and the insurance marker came in the third period.

Assists came from Kenndal Marsden, Cassidy Garbutt, Erin Little, Maddie Billings, and Cameron.

Despite the early game struggles, the team did well to create many odd-man rushes for the Red Hawks. Marsden is encouraging his players to see the entire ice to look for open players for cross-ice passes to lead to quality scoring chances.

"The looks are starting, but it's still a work in progression," he said.

Marsden is happy with his team overall.

He wishes for more practice time so his team can gel, particularly for players such as Cameron, who plays rep hockey out of county, and isn't completely familiar with everyone.

The team is still on track for two important aspects of the season.

"We will be competitive. That's our goal. Competitive and have fun," he said.

Atom AE hosts International Silver Stick

Our Lions Club Highland Storm Atom AEs hosted the International Silver Stick Tournament over the weekend in Haliburton, the 11th annual for the host organization that carries on a hockey tradition started back in the 1950s. The tournament offered a chance for our Atom AEs to compare themselves to other similar sized centres from Ontario regions three to five.

All teams at the tourney proved evenly matched and all games were close, exciting and great to watch. It does your heart good to watch Canadian kids playing the best game on earth. Good, clean, hockey.

For many of the Storm Atom AE players it was their first Silver Stick and the kids really enjoyed themselves. They rode an intense roller coaster over the three games on Saturday that challenged the players and gave them valuable experience as they look toward their play downs.

The Lindsay Muskies handed the Storm their first defeat, winning 3-2 after scoring in the final two minutes of the game. A game that featured the solid goaltending, good defence and end-to-end battles. Nick Phippen scored from Owen Harrison, and, Jaylin Frost scored a highlight, bar down, beauty from Phippen and Sterling Nesbitt that electrified the crowd.

Next the Storm faced their biggest and roughest opponents from Tweed. Apparently they grow'em big in Tweed. This was the first highly physical contest the kids have faced all year, and they scrapped out a 1-1 tie.

These types of games test the player character and team desire and the kids came through in flying colours. What a game! Here the fiery Emma Tidey set up Nick Phippen for his second goal of the tournament. Coaches love these team efforts.

Last on the round robin schedule were the Stirling Blues. A game the Storm had to win to continue their weekend. The game was intense and emotions ran high. Nick Phippen had scored for the Storm.

With the game tied 1-1, 40 seconds remaining, and the face off in Stirling's end, the stage was set for high drama. Darian "Tuukka" Willis was on the bench after doing every-

thing he could to earn his team a win.

Storm iced six attackers and poured out their hearts to try for the win, however, Stirling managed to shovel the puck out into the neutral zone and bury an empty netter.

I just want to tell every one of those kids that they couldn't have made us more proud. They gave their all. They were wonderful representatives of our county, their families and our organization.

Thanks to all the family and friends who made the weekend such a success.

Hats off to Trish Phippen.

Well done.

Submitted by Rich Smith

Great hockey at Silver Stick for Pee wee AE

Haliburton Family Medical Centre Pee wee AEs hosted the annual International Silver Stick Tournament this weekend in Minden. Eight teams were in attendance, which guaranteed some great hockey. The Storm started the day facing off against Centre Hastings.

Centre Hastings stormed out and scored on the very first shift but our squad didn't let up and midway through the period, Paul Turner passed through to James Alexander to even it up.

Centre Hastings continued to chip away though and scored once in the second and again in the third. Although the Storm pressured the play, Centre Hastings sealed it up with an empty-netter to win 4-1.

In the second game the Storm faced off against Port Hope. The home squad got off to a great start and fore-checked hard to force the play. Noah Black got things rolling by scoring from the point with assists by Lexie Tait and James Alexander. James Alexander and William Petrie passed through to Carter Bull whomade it 2-0 after a nice shot from the slot. Port Hope closed the gap in the second and goalie Jaxson Campbell had to be sharp in net. There were a few tense moments in the end, but the Storm preserved to claim their first win, 2-1.

This set up a must win for the final game of the day against the undefeated Stirling Blues. The Storm lived up to their name, putting immense pressure on the Stirling defence from the first puck drop but neither team was able to break through to score in the first.

In the second, Stirling broke free to score twice and unfortunately our squad was never able to recover and the Blues won 2-0.

The team should be very proud of the way they played in all three games, displaying a determined effort throughout.

Heartfelt thanks goes to Shannon Robinson and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout both days to make this event happen.

Thank you also to James Baldry for convening the tournament. It was a great day only made possible by the parent volunteers that participated - thank you!

Submitted by Jon Petrie

Bantam A team unstoppable

The Ed Smolen Dentistry Bantam A team once again came alive in the third period to beat Huntsville 9-5.

Huntsville came out strong in the first going up 2-0 before

Mathew Wilbee scored assisted by Jake Bishop to make it 2-1. Then Huntsville scored to make it 3-1. Minutes later Owen Patterson Smith made it 3-2 unassisted to end the first.

Then Huntsville opened the scoring in the second to make it 4-2. Then Parker Smolen made a remarkable save on a penalty shot to keep the Storm alive.

Moments later Jake Bishop scored on a pass from Patterson-Smith and then with only 1:11 left in the second Nolan Flood scored to tie it up assisted by Bishop.

While the zamboni was cleaning the ice the coach must have said something to these boys as they looked like a different team coming out for the third.

Storm scored one minute 45 seconds in, on a goal by Paydon Miscio assisted by Owen Smitty Smith and Bishop. Another a minute later from Kyle Cooper assisted by Patterson-Smith and Bishop to make it 6-4.

Then at the 11:43 mark Chris Thompson scored from Greg Crofts and Chase Burden. Then 20 seconds later Ethan Keefer fired a bullet from just outside the blue line to put the puck in the top right-hand corner to make it 8-4 unassisted.

Huntsville scored one more before Matt Wilbee scored his second of the night to finish up the scoring.

Once again they have proven that they are unstoppable when they play as a team. Well done!

Next game is Friday night at 7 p.m. against Almaguin in Haliburton

Submitted by Tammy Smith

Pee wee A take on Oro

Dollo's Highland Storm Pee wee A team visited Oro on Saturday and gave up a goal to Oro in the first 10 seconds of play.

Shortly thereafter the team was faced with double penalties and things looked grim but the Storm team successfully played the five-on-three penalty kill.

With just 13 seconds left in the period Highland Storm struck back with a goal by Owen Gilbert on a pass from Lucas Haedicke.

The second period saw lots of chances with both sides hitting crossbars and goal posts but not the net.

Highland Storm started the third period with a penalty but Zach Morissette grabbed the puck in a turnover at the Storm blue-line launching into a breakaway and fired a low shot past the Oro goalie to put Storm ahead with a short-handed goal.

Highland Storm kept the pressure on and Lucas Haedicke put in goal No. 3 close in on a rebound.

With less than six minutes of play left in the game Owen Gilbert followed with a hard wrist-shot from a sharp angle that got past the Oro goalie.

Oro was able to manage one more goal two minutes later but it was not enough as the Highland Storm team took the game with a 4-2 score.

Submitted by Larry Bukta

Midget B girls remain in third place

The Highland Storm Minden Car Quest midget B girls trav-

see STORM page 17

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Storm take on Wolverines

from page 16

elled to Lindsay Saturday afternoon to take part in the Lindsay Lynx days hockey celebration.

The Storm were looking to remain in third place (8-2-3) in their Eastern division of the LLFHL.

The Lynx were on the prowl and played an aggressive style of game that seemed to frustrate the Storm throughout much of the game.

Late in the first period, Cassidy Garbutt opened the scoring with a quick wrister that beat the Lindsay goalie low blocker side.

The Storm continued to generate many scoring chances but the Lynx tender made numerous highlight saves to keep

the game close.

Lindsay never gave up the pressure of their attack and worked hard, trying to tie the game.

The Highland squad weathered the storm Lindsay continued to throw at them and eventually built on their lead with another, almost carbon-copy goal, quick wrister from Kelsey Maracle that beat the Lynx net-minder low blocker again for a 2-0 lead, and eventual final score.

The ninth win was Connor Marsden's seventh shut-out of the season.

The Highland Storm girls will need to pick up their pace of play and focus on their next three games this weekend before a winter/New Year break that will start again on Jan. 4 on the road against the Keene Wolverines who currently sit right

behind them in the standings.

This weekend's three-game tilt will see the Storm midget Bs take on the fourth place Wolverines Friday night at 7:30 p.m. in Minden in a battle for third place.

On Saturday, the Highland squad travels to Whitby for an evening match-up with the always hungry Wolves, and then wrap-up the weekend with a home game in Haliburton Sunday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. against the Cold Creek Comets.

Gear up, girls, as we get ready to push for second place in our loop.

Energizing our level play, while focusing on game pace and passing, along with our stingy defence, will be a must to support our second place (short-term) goal.

Submitted by Dan Marsden



Curling for a cause

Local realtors and their families enjoyed some friendly competition at the Minden Curling Club on Dec. 2 as they raised money for the food bank.

Chad Ingram Staff



Local realtors and their families hit the ice at the Minden Curling Club on Dec. 2 to raise money for the food bank.

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Preparing venison the traditional way



Darren Lum Staff

Canning venison frees up freezer space and offers a different way to prepare meat.

These days, most hunters take their venison to the butcher to have it cut and wrapped. Then, when they get it home, they place it in the freezer and use it at their leisure. But that wasn't always the case.

Early settlers didn't always have the luxury of reliable refrigeration, so, being practical and self-sufficient types, they used other methods of dealing with game meat - this included pickling in brine, curing with smoke or leaving meat outside to stay frozen in the winter months. One of the most popular means to preserve meat was canning.

This method still has value today.

To can game meat, you essentially place cut up portions that have been cleaned of fat and hair in a clean Mason jar. Then, after placing a little salt or other spices atop and leaving the right amount of head space, you place it in a pressure cooker for the prescribed amount of time at the suggested pressure.

The ultra-high temperature generated by the pressure cooker cooks the meat in its own juices and sterilizes and seals the Mason jar. The end result is a product that is bacteria-free and able to last for years without refrigeration if the lid's seal is not broken.

This method is particularly useful if you've run out of freezer space but it is also a good way to deal with meat from less choice cuts since it tenderizes and breaks down the fibres.

I've tried a few jars of canned venison over the years, but it was only this deer season, after acquiring a pressure cooker, I decided to give it a try.

I'm pleased to say that the process was easy and the results were excellent. It's a hit around our place.

Since I'm relatively new to the process, I'm not about to give instructions, but I will say that it isn't very hard to do, especially if you follow instructions provided with your pressure cooker and do a bit of on-line research. Knowing how to use your pressure cooker and knowing a bit about canning is essential. But, as I said, it is not difficult at all.

One excellent website I found is the National Centre of Home Food Preservation at http://nchfp.uga.edu/how/can_05/strips_cubes_chunks.html. There are others too. Read a lot before you start to get a full understanding of the process.

The most time-consuming part I found was the preparation of the meat. But the more time you spend ensuring fat, hair and sinew have been removed from the cubes, the better the end result.

There are several recipes for canned venison; some are as simple as adding a bit of salt; others have a mixture of spices. I settled with the basic salt mixture since it makes the product a little more versatile in other recipes.

I started by canning only a few cans to ensure that I had the recipe I wanted and liked the result. Then I did a few more. It's actually quite fun.

Canned venison comes in handy at the end of a long day too.

You can add it to stews, put it in sandwiches or heat it up and serve on its own. It's also great in a goulash and many other recipes that require tender meat.

It's now definitely a part of my fall repertoire and a real boon to my overcrowded freezer.

Come spring, I'll likely try pressure canning suckers and, should I harvest a bear, a bit of that too.

The early settlers knew what they were doing. Canned venison is just one more bit of proof.



COUNTY OF HALIBURTON COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Haliburton County Joint Accessibility Committee is seeking interested individuals to fill 2 (two) vacancies as Committee members for the remainder of the four-year term of Council ending November 30, 2014. We are seeking public appointments able to represent the interests of the disabled community and participate on the Barrier Aware Team. The successful applicants must be a resident of Haliburton County, 18 years of age or older and living with a disability in order to qualify for this position under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. Further information on the Joint Accessibility Committee can be found at <http://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/services/accessibility-2/>

Any person having an interest in being appointed to the Joint Accessibility Committee is invited to submit an expression of interest, detailing relevant experience and skills to the attention of:

Angela Balle, Deputy Clerk
County of Haliburton,
11 Newcastle Street, P.O. Box 399,
Minden, Ontario
K0M 2K0
705-286-4829 fax
aballe@county.haliburton.on.ca

Notices



County of Haliburton Inaugural Session of County Council

The Council of the County of Haliburton wishes to provide PUBLIC NOTICE that the Inaugural Session of Haliburton County Council will take place on Tuesday December 17, 2013 commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building located at 11 Newcastle Street in Minden. The Public is welcome to attend.

Jim Wilson, CAO/County Clerk

All welcome at Christmas Eve worship



Melissa Alfano
Dorset News

705-766-0076
malfano@hotmail.ca

The community kitchen cookie dough making session scheduled at the Dorset Recreation Centre on Thursday, Dec. 12 is now full and has a wait list. Thank you for the great interest in this fun pre-Christmas activity!

Knox United Church on Harvey Avenue in Dorset is celebrating the season of love and hope, the season of Christmas. On Sunday, Dec. 15, the third Sunday in Advent, the focus will be on the quality of joy – in our lives and in the lives of others. On Sunday, Dec. 22, the fourth Sunday in Advent, love is the focus of the celebration as we prepare for the coming of the greatest gift into the world. Sunday services are at 9 a.m. at Knox United in Dorset, 10:15 a.m. at Stewart Memorial in Dwight and 11:30 a.m. at Pioneer Memorial in Hillside.

On Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve worship times are 4 p.m. at Dorset, 7 p.m. at Hillside and 10 p.m. at Dwight and all are most welcome to attend. For more information, visit

www.lakeofbaysunitedchurches.org.

The Township of Algonquin Highlands offices, the Dorset Recreation Centre and the Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library will be closed between Christmas and New Year starting at noon on Dec. 24 and re-opening for regular hours on Thursday, Jan. 2.

The next session of the Dorset Tai Chi classes for mind, body, spirit, health and wellness will begin on Jan. 7. Classes take place at the Dorset Recreation Centre on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and are open to all levels from beginner to advanced students. The classes include instruction in tai chi, chi kung and meditation and are a great way to learn how to relax and re-energize – a great thing after the busy Christmas season! Classes are taught by Valerie Houston-Peel of Temple Knights Holistic Martial Arts Academy. For more information or to sign up, please give Valerie a call at 705-767-1177.

The Dorset indoor model airplane and helicopter flying group is meeting at the Dorset Recreation Centre in the gym on Tuesdays from 1 to 3 p.m. If you receive an airplane or helicopter for Christmas and you're not sure how to use it – don't despair! Pop in to the rec centre for some expert guidance and tips – and a big open space to fly – no chance of crashing into the furniture or scaring the family cat! The cost

to participate is only \$1 and please bring running shoes. For more information, give Peter a call at 705-766-2722.

Birthday wishes for Dec. 8 to 14 go out to Cameron Nash, Jackie Timbers, Donald McEachern, Jeaninne Dunn, Barb Jordan, Chris Davis, Caitlin Davies, and Happy Anniversary to Diane and Boyd Griffin and Bill and June Johnson. Be sure to give me a call or drop me a line to send special wishes to your loved ones. For all who have birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions this week, have fun and celebrate your special day!

If you have items for the Dorset News, please send them to my home email address which is malfano@hotmail.ca or give me a call at home at 705-766-0076.

Coming Events

St. Patrick's Parish Christmas & New Years Mass Schedule:

St. Patrick's Church Kinmount

December 24th
7:00 PM Children & Family Christmas Mass

December 25th
9:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

January 1st
9:00 AM Feast of Mary Mother of God

Our Lady of Fatima Church Minden

December 24th
5:00 PM Children's Christmas Mass & Pageant

December 24th
9:00 PM Christmas Midnight Mass

December 25th
10:30 AM Christmas Day Mass

January 1st
10:30 am Feast of Mary Mother of God

CARNARVON LEAGUE

(Temporarily out of the Fast Lane.)

Mon. aft. Dec. 4/13

Men

High Avg. Ken Thompson 214

High single. Claude Cote 269

High single Hdcp. Claude Cote 289

High triple. Claude Cote 661

High triple Hdcp. Claude

Cote 741

Ladies.

High avg.

Chris Cote 186

High single.

Chris Cote 194

High single Hdcp.

Anne Lampman 238

High triple.

Chris Cote 506

High triple Hdcp.

Chris Cote 696

Tues. aft Dec. 5/13

High avg.

Claude Cote 204

High single.

Bob Seymour 297

High single hdcp.

Bob Seymour 343

High triple.

Bob Seymour 647

High triple Hdcp.

Bob Seymour 785

Ladies.

High avg.

Chris Cote 187

High single.

Tina Hadley 203

High single Hdcp.

Tina Hadley 265

High triple.

Tina Hadley 494

High triple Hdcp.

Tina Hadley 686

Fri. aft. Dec. 7/13

Men.

High avg.

Claude Cote 208

High single

Bob Seymour 228

High single Hdcp.

Bob Seymour 273

High triple. Claude Cote and Ken Thompson 576

High triple Hdcp. Frank White 712

Ladies.

High avg. Chris Cote 187

High single. Chris Cote 297

High single Hdcp. Chris Cote 329

High triple. Chris Cote 634

High triple Hdcp. Chris Cote 730

community calendar

Your event for free on the web. Go to: www.mindentimes.ca or Community Calendar link at: www.haliburtonecho.ca Or email: jennifer.mceathron@sunmedia.ca

From now until Dec. 14: Second annual Head Lake Grill Toy Drive. Donate a new, unwrapped toy and receive 15% off your bill and be entered into a draw to win one of four gift certificates to the Head Lake Grill.

Dec 11: HALIBURTON: Sexual Health Clinic from 10:30 am to noon. The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more info. call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

December 11, Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Lochlin United Church annual community "Old Fashioned Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long" - 1050 Lochlin Road off Gelert Road (County Road 1). Great music accompaniment with Rev. Harry Morgan and "Friends." Refreshments following: Hot cider and Christmas goodies. Donations to the Food Banks gratefully accepted.

Dec 12: MINDEN: Meet the Nurse from 10 am to noon, Ontario Early Years Centre (144 Bobcaygeon Rd in Sears Building). The nurse can weigh the baby, provide breastfeeding support, screen for speech concerns and discuss infant care, growth and development and other parental concerns. Call (705) 457-1391 for more information.

Dec 14: Christmas at the Museum (Dec. 21) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located at the Haliburton Highlands Museum. Join us to make holiday decorations, enjoy treats and celebrate the Victorian way! Different activities every week!

Contact: 705-457-2760 or info@haliburtonhighlandsmuseum.com

Dec 15: The Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade is on again this year, starting at 12:30 at the Wilberforce School, ending at the Lloyd Watson Community Center and followed by a party with Santa in the Community Center. Fun for kids and grown ups!



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Door-to-door carolling brings community together



Patti Fleury
Around the Town

705-488-2938
brucefleury1@hotmail.com

Speaking with our postmaster Sandy she delights in the number of letters to Santa Claus safely on their way to the North Pole via our Kinmount Post Office but do you know what the second most popular item sent to Santa is? According to my radio station source it is pacifiers. Parents struggling to have little ones give them up before heading off to college apparently manage to negotiate a deal between reluctant toddler and Santa that he will deliver down the chimney a special gift in exchange for those well worn soothers. While we were never caught in the Cabbage Patch Kids shortage one year Bruce did risk his life when a late shipment of Barbie campers, top item on young daughter Megan's list, finally arrived at our local Zellers store.

Here is an important follow up note from the folks at Kinmount Baptist Church. With regard to the Christmas dinner this Saturday, Dec. 14 if you are planning to attend please call ahead to reserve a place. This would be much

appreciated both for meal quantity preparations but also as there is a maximum number of guests which can be seated for dinner in the Church dining space. The Church Office number is 705-488-3188.

Who says that Friday the 13 is unlucky? Someone will be going home from the Christmas bingo at the Kinmount Legion Branch 441 this Friday, Dec. 13 much richer from winning the special \$500 must go jackpot. Games start at 6:45 p.m. with other prizes of turkeys, hams and cash to be won. On Wednesday, Dec. 18 the monthly big bucks bid euchre starts at 11 a.m. with a \$10 entry fee which includes lunch.

Planning ahead to ring in the New Year? At the Kinmount Legion the New Year's Eve potluck house party will start at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31. The evening will include a variety of activities to choose from including darts, hockey on big screen TV and shuffleboard as well as dancing to your music favourites. Please note that this is an age of majority event. There is no charge for admission but bring along your darts, CD'S and favourite potluck dish.

Continuing a Kinmount holiday tradition there will be door-to-door carolling in town on Monday, Dec. 16 weather permitting. If you would like to participate meet at the community centre at 6:30 p.m. The Kinmount Guid-

ing Group will be joining the chorus for the first hour. Afterwards the singers will get together for refreshments and sharing of holiday plans. For more details call Julie at 705-488-2961 during business hours.

The Kinmount and District Lions Club have Angel Trees up at the post office, Credit Union, Shop 'N Save, Gateway General Store, the health centre and Kinmount Pharmacy ready for your donations of new, unwrapped toys/gifts for children from infancy through teen years and non-perishable food items for the Christmas hampers for individuals and families in need of a helping hand. The club is again selling delicious Christmas baked goods which are available for purchase at the health centre, the Pharmacy and Gateway General Store or by calling Vic at 705-488-3053 or Dave at 705-488-2005.

In keeping with those New Year's resolutions about taking better care of yourself the recently formed yoga class will be starting up again in the new year on Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Kinmount Community Centre. The cost is \$9 per session and watch the next issue of the *Gazette* for more specific information.

Reluctantly I have had to bring in the bird feeder as the racoons with their acrobatics have no difficulty in emptying it.

Until next week ...

Legion members saddened by suicide in armed forces



Legion br. 636

Statement from Dominion Command: The Royal Canadian Legion is very concerned about the tragic news of the fourth suicide of a Canadian Armed Forces member in a week.

On behalf of The Royal Canadian Legion and our

320,000 members we offer our sincere condolences to families of these men.

The Legion strongly believes that all Canadians trust the government will honour its obligation to those who willingly risk injury, illness or death to serve our country, protecting the values and way of life we all enjoy.

There is also a responsibility to the families of these men and women.

These tragic events highlight that a culture built on camaraderie and team work can still leave a soldier isolated and vulnerable. The CAF Ombudsman's 2012 study raised concerns of an overburdened mental health system without sufficient resources and no means to monitor or measure its effectiveness to meet the needs of the men and women who willingly served their country.

It is time for the government to take immediate and proactive steps to implement the recommendations of this report.

Gord Moore, the Dominion President, announced that The Royal Canadian Legion will be donating \$30,000 to Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research for a scholarship opportunity in military and veterans' health research.

Bad weather forced the awards ceremony for our Remembrance Day competition to be postponed at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. Winners of the recent Remembrance Day poster, poetry and essay contests will

be receiving a certificate and a cash award.

At last week's meeting, members of Minden Legion voted to allow up to \$100 per Zone Sports event in order to pay registration for teams representing our branch. Pete McGowan, the sports officer is starting to look for members in good standing who want to play euchre, crib, darts or mixed darts and golf.

If you are interested, sign-up sheets will be available at the branch. The first of these events will be euchre Jan. 18 in Cobocok, then cribbage Jan. 25 in Fenelon Falls.

Ways and Means chairman Sonny Lauchlan announced that three will be a special Christmas meat draw on Wednesday Dec. 18 at lunch, at a cost of \$2 per ticket. There will be eight draws, alternating between hams and turkeys.

Funds from our lotteries and draws will be used to help our community at this time of year. The Minden Legion will be making a donation of \$500 to the Minden Food Bank and \$250 to each of the five churches.

The Ladies Auxiliary general meeting will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, and they are looking for new members.

You can leave your name and message at the Legion bar.

Their next big bucks euchre will be Jan. 5. There was an error last week, it costs \$12, (not \$15) per person which includes lunch.

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Tuesday Dec. 17-8pm at MCLEAN AUCTION
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Thank You Notes

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We would like to thank all our Family and Friends for coming out to help us celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 23rd. We feel so Blessed and honored to have so many people share in our special day. For all the ones that travelled from far and near we are so grateful for your caring so much. For every ones Best Wishes, Cards, Gifts and your time spent with us will always be treasured and the memories will be in our hearts and thoughts forever. God Bless you all and thanks a million for being a special part of our lives.

Always Don and Joy Kellett

Obituaries

Obituaries

PAISLEY, Elva J. (nee Yakeley) - Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Thursday, December 5, 2013. In her 83rd year. Beloved wife of Gord of Minden. Dear sister of the late Herb, Albert, John, Gord and Norm. Sister-in-law to Alma, Florence (deceased), Nelda, Marg (deceased), and Diane. Fondly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, family and friends. Friends are invited to visit the family at the **GORDON A. MONK FUNERAL HOME LTD.**, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Monday from 2-4 and 7-9 pm. Funeral Service in the Chapel on Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at 11:00 am. Interment at Churchill Cemetery, Stouffville. Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.
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County card scores

by Patti Fleury

488-2938

brucefleury1@hotmail.com

November 28 bid euchre at Minden Community Centre: Leading ladies were Ida Young 321, Janice Davidson 253, Theresa Deak 244 and Betty Wagar 221. First for the gents at 316 was Tom Grix then John Deak 284, Marcel Roussel 260 and Kevin Maloney 232 with moonshots captured by Marcel Roussel, Belle Walker and Ron Morrison. Thanks to Bev Johnson for this update.

December 3 contract bridge at Club 35: The high scoring quartet members were Ev Morgan 4,950, Willie Cox 4,880, our bridge reporter Margo Davidson 4,460 and Ross Fletcher 4,060. Ross Davies was the draw winner with Donna Hackwood awarded the Shiny Penny. Please note that there will not be bridge at Club 35 on either December 24th or 31st.

December 3 euchre at Lochlin: Barb Carpenter reports that for the ladies Rita Crofts was high and Shirley Davis low with Terry Davis high man and Jim McPherson low. Lone hand honours went to Nancy McPherson while Gene Newell was the draw winner.

December 3 Minden Seniors bid euchre at Minden Legion: Leading ladies were Vi Howell 258, Theresa Deak 257, Doug McIntosh 253 and Belle Walker 250. First for the gents at 289 was Albert Foster followed by Archie Ross 262, John Deak 234 and Kevin Maloney 228. Vi Howell won the major draw with Eileen Shapiera, Doug McIntosh and Bev Johnson claiming the smaller prizes. Betty Wagar also reports that Dorothy McElwain, Belle Walker, Pat Roussel, Doug McIntosh and Archie Ross took the moonshots.

December 3 contract bridge at Minden United Church: Nancy Ballantyne reports a good turnout with Gareth Kellett topping the high scores at 4,180 then at 3,480 Jan Heaven and Linda Taylor 3,240.

December 3 Mixed Shuffleboard at Stanhope Firehall: From Pearl Cowen the news that the duo of Bev Alexander and George Hamilton led at 366 with Joan Bell and Connie Sawyer next at 310. In third spot at 307 were Margaret Oetelaar and Merv Elstone while the afternoon's low of a respectable 221 went to Jean Randell partnered with

Sandy Poulton.

December 4 duplicate bridge at Parklane, Haliburton: Playing Howell Peter O'Connor and Margo Davidson led at 74 percent followed by Rob Eaton and Kathie Porter 58 percent, Muriel McIntosh and Diana Spicer 57 percent and Ev Morgan partnered with Reet Murray 51 percent. Please note that there will not be bridge at Parklane on either December 25th or January 1st.

December 4 bid euchre at Stanhope: Linda Lambert reports that pink honours went to Wendy Gamble 278, Margaret Oetelaar 251 and Pearl Cowen 206. At 307 Pat Scadden led the whites with Sue Pethick 293 second and Colin Miller 219 third. Jason Peacock took three moonshots with Pat Scadden, Margaret Oetelaar and Wendy Gamble claiming singles.

December 5 euchre at Minden Legion: Lone hand holders were Jim and our reporter May Bradbury with Joan Mann and Tom Grix posting the highs. The evening's lows went to Murray Daniels and Pearl Cowen who also took home one of the other prizes along with Linda Hopkins, Pat McInnis and Betty Wagar [2].

December 5 bid euchre at Minden Community Centre: Tied for ladies high at 273 were Phyllis Windsor and our reporter Bev Johnson then Karin Harrison 245, Betty Wagar 219 and Pearl Cowen 207. At 302 Ron Morrison topped the gents followed by Jason Peacock 246, Marcel Roussel 241 and Ida Young 229 while Tom Grix and Bev Johnson took the moonshots.

December 6 euchre at Staanworth Court, Minden: Shirley Howe reports that Carol Derbyshire won for high hands, Albert Foster for both lone hands and the special prize and Maria Tschida for low hands.

December 6 duplicate bridge at Echo Hills, Haliburton: Playing Howell first at 58 percent were Rob Eaton and Peter O'Connor then Ev Morgan partnered with Stella McMillan 57 percent and Tom and Margo Davidson 56 percent. Please note that there will not be bridge at Echo

Hills on December 27th but resume on January 3, 2014.

December 6 bid euchre at Club 35: At 215 Pat Marshall led the ladies with Dorene Elstone 207 next and Linda Voycey 178 third. First for the gents at 261 was Al McMullen followed by Clara Miscio 255 and Merv Elstone 233 with Pearl Cowen holding the hidden score. Jean Dutka also reports that Clara Miscio took the only moonshot.

December 7 bid euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: Leading ladies were Pearl Cowen 310, Jean Randell 302, Vi Howell 290 and Theresa Deak 285. At 301 Ron Morrison took top marks for the gents then Jason Peacock 256, Donna McArthur 253 and Karen Chapman 231. Sherin Brown also reports that Tom Grix won the special prize and took a moonshot along with Jason Peacock and Dorothy McElwain.

December 9 euchre at St. Paul's Friendship Club, Minden: Lone hand honours went to Betty Sharpe and Lillian Mann with Marion Stickwood and Yvonne Arbuthnot recording the highs. The special prize was claimed by Lillian Mann while the afternoon's low went to Lorna Hicks who along with Marion Stickwood was paid a visit by the skunk.

December 9 Kinmount Seniors bid euchre at Kinmount Legion: Gala Newell reports that the top three players were Theresa Deak 302, Karin Harrison 281 and Jim Corbett 259. The draw winner was Richard while Marcy Morgan and Theresa took the moonshots.

December 9 euchre at Staanworth Terrace, Minden: Winning for high hands was Albert Foster, for lone hands Murray Daniels and for both low hands and the special prize John Sparks. Thanks to Sherin Brown for this update.

December 9 euchre at Club 35: Lone hand honours went to Dorene Elstone with Margaret Oetelaar and Garth Windsor posting the high scores. The evening's lows were recorded by Linda Voycey and Merv Elstone while our reporter Garth Windsor claimed the baloney.

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- Entrance easily created off Municipal road
- Hardwood bush with meadow at back of property

Lee Gauthier 489-9968



Building Lot Close to Town \$29,999

- Great location near Minden
- In an area of nice homes
- 1.18 acres on year round road
- Hydro & phone close by

Ed Gibbons 286-2138 x 28



Excellent Commercial Opportunity \$70,000

- Existing Fish & Chips restaurant
- Turnkey Condition; Busy Minden location
- Operates year round; liquor license
- Business only, space is leased.

Andrew Hodgson 286-2138 x 29



Awesome Miskwabi Lake \$239,900

- Great starter on 2-lake chain
- Deep clean shoreline
- Awesome big lake view
- Easy municipal year round road access

Susanne James & Andy Mosher 457-2128 x 33



Little Hawk Lake \$265,000

- Rare opportunity to own on pristine Little Hawk Lake
- 3 bedroom cottage with hardwood decking
- Sound system, view
- Includes deck, sauna

valerie Kulla 286-2138



Donald \$179,900

- Rural property on a 3.9 acre lot
- New windows, new furnace, new shingles
- New walk-in shower, new shingles
- New 200 amp service, new appliances

Denise LeBlanc 286-2138 x 23



Pride of Ownership! \$335,000

- Immaculate 4 season waterfront home/cottage
- Level lot with child friendly sand beach
- Quiet bay on the Gull River heading to Shadow Lake.
- 2 bedrooms and double car garage

David Lee 286-2138 x 27



Recreational Paradise- 37.6 Acres- \$299,900

- 10 mins to Minden, Blairhampton Rd.- prestigious area
- Hard & softwood bush; natural spring; partially landscaped
- High quality 2+1 BR home; 2 baths; Bsmt w/o; Private;
- Level access; trails; 1.5 km from public boat launch- 12 Mile Lake

Gary Moffatt 457-2128 x 36



Minden Home \$234,900

- Fantastic in town location
- 3+ bedrooms with rental potential
- Large deck & well cared for gardens
- Park like setting

Erin Nicholls 457-2128 x 34



Boshkung Lake \$575,000

- Sunshine! Sand Shoreline, Prestigious Lake
- 4 Season Cottage - 4 Bdrms 3 Baths
- Nicely treed level lot with great privacy
- Lrg Walkout Basement w/games room+++

Karen Nimigon 457-2128 x 29



County Road 21 \$165,000

- Mins. to Minden conveniences, solid brick
- 2 bdrm; walk out bsmt.; family room
- Sep. dining room; fireplace; hardwood floors
- Raised bungalow; dbl drive & lots of parking

Dawn Poissant 457-2128 x 31



Excellent Opportunity on Halls Lake \$299,900

- ~120 feet of fantastic waterfront
- Excellent swimming, fishing & boating
- Original 1940's cabin
- Plus full bunkie with kitchen & bathroom

Margie Prestwich 457-2128 x 37



Great Starter Home \$119,000

- Located between Haliburton & Minden
- Many recent upgrades
- Bunkie, single carport, storage shed
- Public access to the 5 lake chain close by

Greg Stamp 457-2128 x 28



Home Sweet Home! \$179,000

- Fully renovated and updated home
- 2 plus 1 bedrooms, open concept living area
- Great location, just minutes to Haliburton
- Adjacent lot available at \$34,900.

Kim Stamp 457-2128 x 24



Drag Lake \$300,000

- Spectacular waterfront property on prime lake
- True Algonquin setting - magnificent views
- Rustic cottage at water's edge - Sunshine galore!
- New driveway installed - great boating & swimming

Elizabeth Thompson 457-2128 x 52



Acreage on Two Roads \$99,000

- 78 Acres fronting on Ravine Rd & County Rd 121
- Hydro on Two Lot Lines
- Driveway Roughed In
- Great Mixture of Hardwood and Softwood

Melanie Vigrass 286-2138 x 32



Halls Lake Beauty \$649,900

- Classic charm with modern upgrades
- Incredible 249' of sandy beach waterfront
- Boathouse and gazebo at waterfront
- 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, stone fireplace

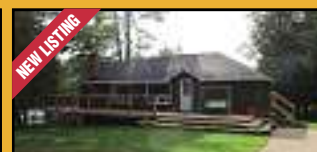
Tom Wilkinson 286-2138 x 25



Large Chalet Lot \$49,500

- 4.6 Acre building lot near to Sir Sam's Ski Hill
- Year round access and hydro is installed
- Close to public beach, shopping and restaurants
- Great location for your dream home or ski chalet

Andrea Wilson 457-2128 x 25



Outstanding Pine Lake Property \$589,000

- 395 feet of combination deep water and sand shoreline
- Very level lot with huge majestic trees
- Completely redone main cottage
- Oversized 2 car garage with upper Bunkie

Kim Stamp 457-2128 x 24



Soyers Lake area acreage \$39,900

- 727 Ft Road Frontage, 15.84 Acres
- Beautiful mixed bush with some views
- Older driveway
- Excellent location between Minden/Haliburton

Mark Dennys 457-2128 x 30



Location! Location! \$1,950,000

- 4.86 acres; Corner of Hwy 118 & Sunnyside
- Overlooking beautiful Head Lake
- Shovel ready with site plan approved
- All the hard work is complete!!!

Drew Bishop 457-2128 x 23

• Haliburton (705) 457-2128
• Minden (705) 286-2138

• Carnarvon (705) 489-9968
• Kennis/Redstone (705) 754-1932

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